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October 16, 1965

TO: NEA - Ambassador Hare

FROM: NEA - Rodger P. Davies RPD

SUBJECT: Telephone Conversation with John Finney of The New York Times

John Finney (New York Times) telephoned me to ask whether there was any substance to the report on page A-16 of the Washington Post that the United States was to help Jordan buy French jets. I replied that I had helped draft the official response which was that we have no agreement to sell United States aircraft to Jordan nor any arrangement to finance French fighters.

Finney asked whether Jordan would have funds to acquire fighters. I replied that at the various summits, the Arabs had agreed to contribute 150 million pounds sterling over ten years to equip the states on Israel's borders, and we believed the first tranche had been paid.

Our conversation concluded with both of us deploring the fact that badly needed resources were being diverted to obsolescent armaments which, in any case, given the situation in the Near East, would probably never be used.

(1)

DEF 12-5 Jordan-

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cc: NE - Mr. Symmes
NEA/P - Mr. Brown